

## *2010 Sidie Hollow Dredging Project*

In 2010, Vernon County was able to secure funding to dredge approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sediment out of the boat landing bay at Sidie Hollow Lake. The sediment had been building up since the man-made lake was formed around 1968. Two streams feed the lake, and when it floods, extra sediment is carried downstream and deposited at the mouths of the stream where they enter the lake. While both stream delta's were choked with sediment, there were only enough funds to deal with one, so the boat landing delta was prioritized.



The lake was drawn down by 8' during the fall, and by mid-October crews began the process of loading sediment onto dump trucks and hauling it out of the valley and to a nearby farm field. It is estimated that over 1,000 dump truck loads of sediment were removed from the delta. Where the water was 0.5' to 3' in depth, it will now be 3' to 7' deep and will support a much improved fishery in the delta area. It will also be much more conducive for recreation enthusiasts to launch boats and canoes.

Sidie Hollow Lake is a 38 acre impoundment, created by man in the late 1960's when an earthen dam was designed and installed by the federal Soil Conservation Service. The purpose of the dam is flood control - to back up water during heavy rainfall events for the purpose of minimizing damage to downstream roads, bridges and properties. The dam has served its purpose for more than 40 years.

A side-benefit to the flood protection is the development of the 521 acre Sidie Hollow County Park. The focal point of the park is Sidie Hollow Lake, which provides some very good fishing and canoeing for park visitors. The park is home to more than 2 miles of hiking trails, and about 6 miles of combination hiking and mountain bike trails. There are 73 campsites, restrooms with flush toilets, hot showers, picnic shelters, trout streams, playground areas and many other park amenities. The park is a popular spot for locals and visitors to our area.

